

Comment to the FCC, in re Sinclair Broadcasting:

Sinclair Broadcasting's actions forcing their stations to air a one-sided political documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It shows that the FCC has failed in its responsibility to manage the public airwaves in the interest of the public.

Unless something has changed and I missed it, Sinclair's free uses of the public airwaves obligates them by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we the people need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own local communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. We need broadcast licensees to be facilitators of public discourse in whom we can trust to be fair and unbiased. It is the duty of the FCC to bring a stop to this abuse of the public airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Perhaps it is time that the public, owners of the airwaves, stand up and demand that the FCC dramatically strengthen the license renewal process and force licensees to prove that they are serving the public interest of all the people, not just those they support politically.

I urge the Commission to stop to this affront to democracy; bring an end to media consolidation. Since licensees clearly cannot police themselves, the people must demand that you, the FCC, police them in the interest of all citizens.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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